Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A striker of a vehicle door latch device, comprising:

a longitudinal plate-like metal base to be fixed to a vehicle body; and

a U-shaped metal engaging member including a first leg part, a second leg part which is in parallel with the first leg part, and a front connecting part which connects a front end of the first leg part and a front end of the second leg part;

the longitudinal axis of the front connecting part being perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the metal base;

wherein the longitudinal length of both the first leg part and the second leg part are perpendicular to the plane of the metal base;

each of said first leg part and said second leg part having, at rear end thereof which projects on a rear side of the base through a mounting hole of the base, a rear caulking

flange with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole engaged with a rear surface of the base; and

a front caulking flange with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole engaged on a front side of the base;

said first leg part having, at a front side portion thereof, a latch engaging part which is engageable with a latch on the vehicle door latch device having a recess which is oriented on the latch to engage the ~~front side portion~~ latch engaging part;

said first leg part having, at a rear side portion thereof, a reinforced large diameter part with a larger diameter than that of the latch engaging part between the front caulking flange of the first leg part and the latch engaging part;

wherein a length of said reinforced large diameter part being 20% or more of the length of the first leg part.

2. (Original) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to claim 1, wherein said second leg part has the same shape as said first leg part.

3. (Original) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to claim 1, wherein said latch engaging part has the same diameter as said front connecting part.

4. (Currently Amended) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein a tapered part is provided between said reinforced large diameter part and said latch engaging part.

5. (Currently Amended) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the length of said reinforced large diameter part is 25% or more of the length of said first leg part.

6. (Currently Amended) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said second leg part has the same shape as said first leg part, and said latch engaging part has the same diameter as said front connecting part, and a tapered part is provided between said reinforced large diameter part and said latch engaging part.

7. (Original) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to claim 6, wherein the length of said reinforced large diameter part is 25% or more of the length of said first leg part.

8. (Currently Amended) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the length of said reinforced large diameter part is 30% or more of the length of said first leg part.

9. (Original) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to claim 1, wherein said reinforced large diameter part has a length of twice or more the length of said rear caulking flange, in the longitudinal direction of said first leg part.

10. (Original) The striker of a vehicle door latch device according to claim 1 wherein said reinforced large diameter part has a length of triple or more the length of said rear caulking flange, in the longitudinal direction of said first leg part.

11. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method of a striker of a vehicle door latch device, comprising the steps of:

bending a linear metal rod with the same diameter from beginning to end to form a U-shaped rod including a first leg part, a second leg part which is in parallel with said first leg part, and a front connecting part which connects a front end of said first leg part and a front end of said second leg part;

setting said U-shaped rod in a press lower die having a cavity whose diameter is larger than the diameter of said linear metal rod, in the state where rear ends of said

first and second leg parts project outward from the press lower die;

pressing the rear ends of said first and second leg parts by press bars to form reinforced large diameter parts whose diameter is larger than the diameter of said linear metal rod, at the rear side portions of said first and second leg parts which are positioned in said cavity, without changing the diameter of front side portions of said first and second leg parts; and

inserting said rear ends of said first and second leg parts into mounting holes of a metal base, and after that, fixing said rear ends to said metal base by caulking work.